

FPJ POLL PROTEST

Opposition concedes

By Michael Lim Ubac, Gil C. Cabacungan, Jr. and Cynthia D. Balana

ALMOST one year after the hotly-contested May 2004 elections won by President Macapagal-Arroyo by one of the slimmest margins, the opposition has virtually admitted that it has lost its battle.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said yesterday that the "legal battle to open the ballots and count them through the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) is closed."

"Insofar as the PET is concerned, we already accepted that the PET option to use that as a vehicle to open the ballots and find out who won is closed. *Tunggap namin ang kato-tahanang 'yon.* (We have already accepted that.) That's the reality," he said.

But Escudero, secretary general of the recently-launched United Opposition, quickly pointed out that although the legal battle was lost, the fight of ordinary Filipinos against an abusive and corrupt administration would continue.

Escudero did not rule out the possibility of Poe supporters taking to the streets. "These options are all open and it had been done in the past. We just have to see what will happen in the coming weeks," he said.

A day earlier, actress Susan Roces, the widow of opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., finally abandoned her bid to substitute for her late husband in the electoral protest filed with the Supreme Court, saying "Enough is enough."

Roces' decision not to contest the SC ruling was immediately welcomed by both Malacañang and administration congressmen.

"We are impressed by the decision made by Ms Susan Rocés and we are sure she considered what is best for our country," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

Ms Arroyo herself refused to comment on Rocés' decision during a briefing yesterday.

But her legal counsel said the President felt finally relieved that the last obstacle to her presidency has been removed.

"The President is very happy about the decision of Susan Rocés. As a matter of fact, I had her attend the mass in Our Lady of Fatima parish in Las Piñas last Sunday for thanksgiving," said lawyer Romulo Macalintal, lead counsel of the President in the election protest.

But Escudero clarified that legal defeat was not due to actress Rocés' decision not to file a motion for reconsideration to the March 29 ruling of the high court junking her bid to substitute for FPJ.

"It's not Susan Rocés who surrendered or throw in the towel. It was the Supreme Court (whose members compose the PET) who stopped her," said Escudero.

In her manifestation filed with the SC Monday, Rocés "expressed disgust" over the high



ROCES

court decision, he said.

"She disagrees completely with the decision. She thinks that another decision contrary to what was handed down should have been made by the Supreme Court. But she also accepts the fact that the court has closed its doors. Now let it not be said that she's throwing in the towel," he added.

Malacañang, however, ignored Rocés' resentment over the PET decision. "I believe the overall effect would be the lessening of tension and for this we are grateful," Bunye said.

At the Senate, opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said yesterday that Rocés made the right move.

"I think that Susan Rocés... was correct in taking the position she has taken," he said. "I think, realistically speaking, it would have been very difficult to expect a reversal of that decision of the Supreme Court," he told reporters.

Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito said that Ms Rocés' decision "should be respected."

"Deep in the minds of the people it's clear who won the elections," added Sen. Jinggoy Estrada.

In a statement, Lakas-CMD Reps. Edwin Uy (Isabela) and Antonio Cuenco (Cebu) said that Rocés' decision provided a "full and selfless closure" on the issue.

"It will serve no purpose if their supporters take their fight to the streets, especially if they continue ignoring the truth about President Arroyo's victory which has long been proclaimed," Uy said.

Cuenco said Rocés' decision showed her respect for the rule of law and the Supreme Court. *With reports from TJ Burgonio and Philip C. Tubeza*

Sandigan OKs Erap visit by show biz pals

By Nelson Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday allowed Fernando Poe Jr.'s widow, actress Susan Rocés, and other show biz personalities to visit deposed president Joseph Estrada at his rest house in Tanay, Rizal where he is currently detained on plunder charges.

The anti-graft court decision came after the Philippine National Police withdrew its opposition to an earlier motion filed by Estrada's lawyer Rene Saguisag seeking the court's permission for the planned visit by Rocés and other movie personalities.

The court, however, limited the visiting hours to only 8 p.m.

The PNP had opposed Saguisag's motion, citing the lack of manpower and funds for the proposed visit.

It was the first time that the PNP opposed a motion of this nature filed by the defense panel.

The PNP said its resources are devoted to the antiterrorism campaign of the government.

Saguisag said the proposed visit was meant to celebrate Estrada's 68th birthday in advance and to inaugurate the memorabilia of his friend, the late FPJ.

In withdrawing its opposition to Saguisag's motion, the PNP assured the security of the former president and his visitors.

Saguisag expressed elation over the decision of the Sandiganbayan granting his motion.

He said there was no reason for the PNP to oppose the planned visit, noting that the basis of its oppositions was purely speculative and farfetched.

"*Ang security risk lang doon ay si Eddie Garcia pero sa pelikula lang yon,*" Saguisag said with a laugh.

He added that it was totally unfounded to brand Rocés, Dolphy, and other show biz supporters of the former president who plan to visit him as security risk.

"Ms Rocés is a symbol of orderliness and calm. In fact, she already withdrew her electoral protest to avoid anymore trouble. She deserved this visit," Saguisag said.

Lawyer Jose Flaminiano, a member of Estrada's legal panel, expressed surprise at the decision of the Sandiganbayan.

He expressed a similar view with Saguisag, but stressed that the PNP's fears were unfounded.

"*Sa kyo noon, sinong pupunta roon,* (It's that far, so who will go there)" Flaminiano said.

Loren must be dreaming, says Noli's lawyer

By Cynthia D. Salinas

MANILA—Sen. Loren Legarda must have been dreaming when she claimed she was in the six provinces she had identified for a recent election in her election protest against Vice President Noli de Castro, lawyer Ramon Micaland said yesterday.

Micaland, who is one of the Castro lawyers and his spokesperson, said Legarda's claim that she would be able to convince the Canvassing Board that she won in at least three of the provinces was "absurd."

"I don't know the facts of the case because it is highly impossible to say she would be able to win, then did she know she would be leading by 400,000 votes in Maguindanao when she has not won a single ballot for several?" Micaland asked the lawyers.

"She should wait until the ballot boxes are opened, and we are confident... the result will not materially affect the outcome of the May 2006 elections," Micaland said.

Micaland was the lead counsel of President Benigno Aquino in the impeachment proceedings of Noli and in the election protest filed by his son, presidential candidate Benigno Aquino III, against Loren. The protest was later dismissed by the Supreme Court, citing the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

In a memorandum filed by Legarda with the PET, she named Cotabato, Benguet and Maguindanao as provinces where "serious irregularities" took place.

She identified Canio del Sur, Benguet del Sur and Zamboanga del Sur as provinces where "serious irregularities" were accepted.

Legarda and her lawyers had actually filed all 14 provinces where massive fraud was allegedly committed and another 13 provinces where smaller-scale fraud was alleged.

It's final: Sin can't make it to conclave

By Chintan K. Bhatnagar

BY FBNS

MANILA—Archbishop Jose Cardinal Sin won't be joining the conclave that will elect the next pope.

In a statement, the Archbishop of Manila yesterday said the 75-year-old Sin "will not be participating" in the conclave set to begin on Monday.

He will now relax what would have been a year of fasting, he said, and probably fast—again, he was among the candidates that elected John Paul II, who died 11 days after his papacy, said John Paul II's secretary.

The 75-year-old Sin has been afflicted with a kidney disease that has restricted his mobility and required him to use a wheelchair.

Last month, he was still seen walking in the streets, saying it was his "duty as a cardinal and as one of the leaders of the Philippine Church" to be present during the election that would determine who would be the next pope.

His walking speed was apparently not enough to take him to the conclave, he said, and he would not be attending the conclave.

He would be attending the conclave of the College of Cardinals and the Synod of Bishops, he said.

"The conclave is a very important event, because of its physical condition, he is not really eligible and therefore may be excluded from attending the conclave," he said in his statement.

Batting, whose message was carried through the Philippine television network Asia Vision, said "the influence of Cardinal Sin, who is a model for us, is a blessing for the Philippines during this election."

The Cardinal's resignation and the three Cardinal electors of the Philippine Congress had been announced on the market, the two sources said.

"I understand very well your strong desire to be present and to give your contribution to the election of the next pope," Pope said.

"I am sure that your sacrifice will be very beneficial to the development of the Philippine Church and the election of the next pope will be a blessing for the Philippines," he said.

Sin's absence, however, may mean that he will not be able to vote in the conclave, he said.

Sin's absence, however, may mean that he will not be able to vote in the conclave, he said.

The PET will first make the opening of the ballot boxes from the six pilot provinces where Legarda believes she won—Cotabato, Benguet, Maguindanao, Zamboanga del Sur, Benguet del Sur and Zamboanga del Sur.

Castro's lawyer, Noli de Castro, said he is confident that he will win the election.

"It would be a very difficult situation to be in as we are not sure," he said, adding that the recent vote in the six provinces would be a good one and the rest of the general provinces, these provinces.

De Castro said he was eager to hear the final results, and was confident he would win the election. He said he was confident that he would win the election.



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Cardinals will have to contend with Muslims issue

(ROME)—By ecclesiastical or not, many continue themselves as candidates to be the next pope have vigorously expressed positions on Islam, and on whether the Roman Catholic Church's relations with Muslims should be cordial or as a much more confrontational.

John Paul II had a consistent, even ground-breaking, strategy for addressing Islam. Talk to all ears, reveal there were few contrary results. But in the Vatican, and especially since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, his longstanding advocacy of dialogue had long spawned criticism, mostly quiet, as being not strong enough.

Now, although relations with Islam will not be the election issue for the 121 cardinals who will meet to select the next pope, the debate is sure to stir because it intersects centrally with other major issues facing the church: increasing secularism in Europe, confronting with the religious revival in the Islamic

world, relations with other religions, and the rising number of Muslim immigrants in the west. The swelling numbers of Christians in the Middle East face a major concern.

It is clear that some in the church—among them cardinals who will vote for the next pope—see Islam as a threat and not much talk with Muslims as representative at a time when there is widespread concern about the need to revitalize Christianity.

John Paul reached out to Muslims like no other pope before him. He was the first to record in any book a message, in Damascus in 2001, and he issued an apology for past mistreatment of the church that many have read to include the Crusades.

But some critics of religious dialogue contend that the fear of offending is so great that neither side risks doing what is necessary to move. That is, the work of dialogue, Christ as the son of God or Muhammad as the prophet of God. **—Rex Rick Street Street Service**

Sex scandals crisis dooms prospects of American pope

Three pages of 1

wouldn't be the best pope."

An American pope may also be dogged by the legal issue faced by several American bishops over abortion in their dioceses.

"One issue from bishop candidacy list is many bishops in his diocese that he has in that state—a lot of financial and legal issues—that you don't want the pope to be dogged by," Sweeney said.

Although Leno is not a pope, the Italian cardinals for a potential pope consider, he is eligible to vote and be voted as pope.

Later comments from the Vatican indicated on Dec. 13, 1983, over allegations by newly retired priests who had a consistent record of abusing boys. The allegations were consistent in multiple dioceses, which led by several states who are now admitted have been a psychological for depression, addiction or alcoholism.

Leno reflected in public as the arch priest of Santa Maria del Popolo, the first of the four main papal churches in Rome, including St. Peter's Basilica, Lateran Church, and the Church of St. John Lateran in the Vatican.

Poaching the priests

Last Thursday, Leno witnessed President George W. Bush's visit to the Maggiori church during the Mass offered by the Filipino community in Rome for the deceased Pope. It was during that time that American bishops discovered that Leno had been called to the Vatican and given a cryptic hint.

"It reflects on the fact that they have no ability to police themselves. Their decisions are final and irreversible," said John Sweeney, 67, who claims to be a victim of priested child molestations and defrocked priest Paul Shanley. He made the remark over American television.

Leno was succeeded by Jean Ouellet, who had gained respect for his firm handling of clerical sex abuses as bishop of Palm Beach. But he was not included in the last batch of candidates in 2005.

There are 12 other American candidates who will take part in the papal conclave. One of them is Cardinal Roger Mahony of Los Angeles, who is being questioned in American courts for allegedly endorsing what has become an ongoing sex-shocking his priests from child molestation suits.

Bishops'conclave have been fighting off as much by the Los Angeles-based attorney's office to sue over sex abuse claims in child molestation cases. They have looked the American role in the 1980s, however, the right against self-incrimination, as well as the separation of church and state.

No outstanding candidates

Although the American Catholic church has 60 million members and is the most dominant Christian group in the United States, the possibility of an American pontiff is the property to create because the six candidates have raised the American hierarchy, Rome-based, clerical and religious suit.

Archbishop Robert White of Boston's diocese, an American pope might not allow an American pope to be as much as the lack of really "outstanding" candidates.

"The American candidate isn't the best," White said.

Fighting abuses but...

Sweeney acknowledges the Dominican master general is handling North American and Latin affairs, and American themselves are not ready for an American pope because they are busy with their own issues.

"The Church has to face this crisis, and the American people and the American church must face it," Sweeney said. "Ultimately it is a difficult time, as I am wondering if it would be good for them to say, let's have an American pope, while they themselves are up to their necks in their bishops' issues."

Thinking who to vote Chicago, a dominant Catholic city said the victims and their families had primarily been forgiving of the abuse. For they felt betrayed by the bishops for not doing the minimum over a long period of time. "They told the bishops, you broke the silence, you understood the church's condition, and you continued the church... you really turned up."

Unfair promotion

Sweeney and the monks had been critical over the American discovery that Leno had been linked to the scandal. "We were moved all the way to the bottom," he said. "Single who knows him believe he should not have been given a prestigious position."

The promotion may also reflect American Catholics' love for the bishop. "People will say, 'Why? In my diocese we moved this priest, and even to move even the bishop was removed or he resigned, so why would you at the Vatican level consider this?'"

International distrust

Aside from the sex scandal, international distrust of America as a superpower means the world is not yet ready for an American pope over the papacy. He explained, the administration of the American President George W. Bush has taken "isolationist" and "pro-war" positions on foreign international relations.

"I think it's a crime against humanity to make problems through violence," Sweeney said. "It's implied, threatened, ordered, whatever you say it is I think that Jesus has been in violence."

Answered

"I always think that it would be an ideal position for someone from a superpower to be pope," the Dominican theologian said. "I don't know if that would be the best thing for the Church."

WEDNESDAY, APR

Justice

By Armand Nocum

IS THE COUNTRY'S justice system going to the termites?

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday admitted the government effort to have Rod Strunk extradited from the United States has been snagged by the destruction of the original copy of the extradition petition by termites.

Strunk is the suspected mastermind in the killing of his wife, actress Nida Blanca.

"It's an embarrassment to the present secretary of justice," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez admitted the loss of the documents as he announced that the Department of Justice would be making Strunk's extradition one of the "talking points" during US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's coming visit to the Philippines.

"We would like to tell the US to comply with the extradition treaty. There must be reciprocity in the extradition treaty," Gonzalez said, pointing out that the Philippines has extradited a number of individuals wanted in the US, but hardly any had come this way.

A US court dismissed on Nov. 12, 2003, the Philippine government petition seeking Strunk's extradition.

The US court said the evidence presented by the Philippine government "is so inconsistent and conflicting that it provides little competent evidence to support the conclusion that Strunk hired [Philip] Medel to murder Blanca."

The US court, however, said the government could present a new case against Strunk "should new, competent evidence be submitted."

In a memo to Gonzalez yesterday, the DOJ extradition panel said there was strong ground to revive the extradition petition because there were new witnesses who could give "direct (eyewitness account), credible, consistent testimony" on the killing.

The panel also pointed to the latest Court of Appeals decision "finding probable cause against Strunk for the murder of (Blanca) and which decision has been upheld by the Supreme Court."

But before the petition can be revived, Gonzalez said the DOJ would ask the US court for help in reconstructing its extradition petition for Strunk.

The government had sent copies of its evidence against Strunk to the US court with its first petition.

"According to the one holding it [evidence] before, it was destroyed by *anay* (termites)," Gonzalez said, brushing aside speculation the documents may have been deliberately destroyed.

Gonzalez described the loss as a "case of simple negligence."

"It's *force majeure* (inevitable)," he said. "The problem is we cannot find any duplicates, which is strange."

Blanca was killed in November 2001. Strunk fled to the US shortly after to visit his ailing mother and never returned.

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Slaves as products of colonial education



THE EFFORT of former Education Secretary Edgardo J. Jara to graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University last March 5, published by the Inquirer, was an eye opener. His own culpa for and criticism of our present leadership for having made a mess of our country were appropriate, but it did not go deep enough.

His proposal to extend the period elementary and high school education to 12 years to improve the quality of our students is a nice place to start. What is wrong with our educational system is not its educational structure. We have numerous experts in education, armed with doctoral and master's degrees, who have submitted innumerable proposals for educational reforms. Some of the proposals which have been adopted by the government, such as the creation of the Commission on Higher Education which was proposed by the Juan C. Enson Commission on Education in 1971. And yet the quality of our education continues to deteriorate.

What is wrong with our education is its content. It is colonial education. It lacks a national purpose. It lacks nationalism. The educational content is borrowed on paper, the individual has financial means and yet missing a living. But it does not instill him with nation-

alism, with the sincere desire to build a country he can be proud of, a country that is just and generous to its citizens with the capacity to become producers, not just with dignity and to be independent.

In a month, we have graduates who cannot live and work in their own country because they have a country that cannot give them the opportunity to apply whatever they learned in school. Modern education has become irrelevant in a country that is colonial and neo-colonial. Nothing illustrates this better than the fact that our neo-colonial education is designed to train people to be foreign laborers, to be foreign employees to be below their educational qualifications and to be neo-workers as housemaids, doctors or nurses, regardless of educational degrees, and lower wages.

To top it all, our leadership often sits out of all helplessness and encourage migration to obtain money to pay the government debt they have incurred on loans of the country but used for their own interests. Our colonial education produces colonial slaves both at home and abroad. It perpetuates the colonial rule that exploited their own people on behalf of foreign masters.

—NOVEL LARUMBA, nlarumba@lydian.com

Can we make JPIL proud of us?

JPIL (just like clothes) shows in my life that I'm so much for someone I have never met. I was in a supermarket when my husband called me to enter the house that the housewife was doing. I would still be a moment thinking twice it would be a good time for me to go home. Upon arrival, I needed to watch the door or television, to see images of him and listened to someone's opinion on his falling health. Some would have said, I was alone and left myself for crying. I would run the TV off, only to see it again as a way of staying in his side-line. In fact, on 3 o'clock Saturday morning (April 13), the housewife called. I called again, this time making it myself alone.

It's almost amazing how millions of people around the world could feel an enormous sense of love and grief over the death of someone who was not even their relative. But, of course, it would have been much stronger and as well than my for Pope John Paul II.

Yes, I am not that religious. In fact, I only started attending Sunday Mass regularly after I married. People became more significant at the onset of motherhood, being a mother made me look like someone, other than me. But of course, who could provide me a

sense of security that the world will all rights be my children. Pope John Paul II was not there. He was an icon of faith who exemplified Jesus Christ's teaching through action. He was a man of peace in the most sense of the word.

When someone is asked about his or her wishes, do you notice that "world peace" is mentioned, almost always? But the wish has become meaningless to us for that we have accomplished it in the past. In fact, it is Pope John Paul II who brought it to us. As a leader of the Roman Catholic Church, he reached out more to members of other religions, emphasizing the brotherhood in their faith, instead of the difference.

In this period of human grief over his passing, I pray that his legacy be not forgotten. Especially by the leaders of the world and of our nation. I pray that the next pope would live just as well and be just as inspiring as Pope John Paul II.

I pray that each one of us will make the last days of his or her life as a child of God and not just a man.

—ROSAL CRISTINA REYES, rosalcris@lydian.com

A prayerful suggestion for Migrant

THESE are times to let us hear from Migrant International or Asian "New Immigration, Inc." which appeared on the March 29 issue of the Inquirer.

Let us not let the law discriminate. The Japanese government has every right to enact laws that it deems beneficial to its people. But, they should not discriminate in front of the Japanese Embassy or those that live in Japan to make the new immigrants feel just as welcome as we go to Japan to work without the proper documents.

Instead, the members of Migrant, and any body who want to join, can register a prayer largely in front of the Japanese Embassy

which can then the group will get a valid permit for the activity. This would be more powerful. To make the prayer actually more meaningful, do it for seven consecutive days.

The slogan of prayer should be to demand the Japanese government and to make the Japanese people aware of what their Imperial Army did 66 years ago during the birth for Manila, where thousands of innocent civilians were slaughtered. The completion of the prayer should be that such inhumanity would not be repeated in any part of the Philippines or in any part of the world. Let us pray.

—CHRIS M. WILSON, cmwilson@lydian.com



Question of the Week

Are you confident that GMA will be able to solve our fiscal crisis?

Senders of at least 20 texts as published in Tuesday's Inquirer Mailbox will each receive an Inquirer Mailbox

Inquirer Mailbox
Name, age, city, message.

Send your answers to 3333 (GMA) or 3333 (GMA). (Minimum of 140 characters)
*Metro Manila numbers can call 02-7070000. Provincial numbers can call 02-7070000. Inquirer will randomly select answers. In 2007 or 2008 we have prizes and we need to know.



Question of the Week

How do you cope with the present high cost of living?

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CONGRATULATIONS!

INQUEST

THE PHILIPPINE ADVENTURE

ADVENTURE

Q5 WINNER

April 11 Preliminary Draw

RENE J. NOVISTEROS

204 J.P. Laurel St., M'lang, North Cotabate

wins an Apple iPod 20GB and a Guyito doll!

Original Adventure Update

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE GAME!
REGISTER NOW FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A Canon Powershot A7S Digital Camera

In the 5th Preliminary draw on April 18
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and up to P100,000.00
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IN JOIN, REGISTER NOW FOR INQUEST Simply send your "high chance" complete registration to: Inquirer, Attn: Inquest, 200 J.P. Laurel St., M'lang, North Cotabate. Prizes: 1st Prize: Canon Powershot A7S Digital Camera; 2nd Prize: Canon Powershot A7S Digital Camera; 3rd Prize: Canon Powershot A7S Digital Camera; 4th Prize: Canon Powershot A7S Digital Camera; 5th Prize: Canon Powershot A7S Digital Camera.

There people our pages, read the Inquest files and follow the clues to help you in your quest for prizes!

Log on at www.inquester.com

INQUEST

INQUIRER

Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bantayres
Bureau Chief Roberto S. Fernandez

The last Kamikaze stand in Bamban

By Ramon Orosco
Sancti Spiritus, Ilocos

BEFORE the "Holocaust of Manila" in February 60 years ago, battles were fiercely fought in Bamban, Tarlac, from where American troops penetrated Ilocos and the city of Manila.

In Bamban, the Kapampangan were known as the last north of Manila, the last city of the Japanese Imperial Army would call "Manila" as the "ultimate battle" in the Pacific.

More than 41,000 soldiers were mobilized, including one Ryukyu and Kamikaze suicide pilots, to stop the retreat of large US military contingents via Lingayen Gulf in the south, and Lingayen Gulf in the north, as early as October 1944.

The war came down from years after the Japanese seized Clark Air Base and Fort Donato (Shangri-La) in Angeles City, south of Manila. The base was expanded to include three in western Pangasinan, Malabon in northern Pangasinan, and Bamban in the north, according to archival documents and oral accounts obtained by the Bamban Historical Society.

Accounts were and in spite of elaborate defense lines established by the Japanese in the plains and hills of Bamban, 33 soldiers from the 100th Infantry Regiment and the 640th Cavalry of the Army's 49th Division entered the area on foot from Lingayen Gulf on Jan. 20, 1945.

The military unit was the "30th Division (Tenth Division)" which the 30th Division from the US National Archives, showed that Douglas MacArthur making a first time field inspection on that day.

Being Route 2, more known as the MacArthur Highway, the US Army advanced southwards Clark and back to Manila. From the hills, the Japanese resisted, fighting for 12 hours on March 1, 1945.

"Very little is mentioned about the importance of Bamban in various journals in history," historian Roberto de la Cruz, 80th year old, said.

Military past

A former large landowner, Anis withdrew and was the target of Japanese attacks in 1916. Bamban evolved into a pueblo of Japanese and Kapampangan migrants.

The area, described to be "fertile and suitable," returned to the hills on the west, which were part of the Zambales mountain range.

In 1924, Bamban, Capas, Concepcion and Tarlac were reorganized from Pangasinan to form part of what is now Tarlac province. The former Division Bamban was established as a municipality.

Founded by St. Francis of Assisi, the hills on the west, and the area on the south, Bamban became the last front where Gen. Francisco Ballesteros defended the supplies from pursuing American troops in 1935.

Now, President Emilio Aguinaldo inspired the construction of a multitude of residences and fortifications, from the Alcala River in Angeles City down to the San-Bamban River, before his retreat in 1935.

The Bamban bridge across the Manila Bay and Ilocos, opened to traffic in 1932, became a highly contested structure at the start of the Japanese-American war. The 23rd Division of the Philippine Army, led by Maj. Gen. Tomas Gargura, captured the bridge through repeated battles in Japanese soldiers' hands. It, 1941 to Jan. 5, 1942.

At field

The military significance of Bamban was not lost to the Japanese. De la Cruz said.

With the Philippines under the US Army, completed the Bamban air field in February 1944. Opened until January 1945, the air base was used for the transport of troops, food, and other supplies to the Philippines.

"I could accommodate 2,400 heavy bombers, and transport and maintenance planes. Various aircraft and 120 mm anti-aircraft cannons were positioned around the base," De la Cruz said. He noted that the Japanese moved to Manila and the last.

Preparing for an offensive, the Japanese military moved the 26th Air Regiment to the Bamban air field on Jan. 5, 1945.

The Japanese Navy's Air Group 201, 111th Squadron of the First Air Fleet was assigned to the Bamban air field to support attack missions. The 201st Squadron Unit was also equipped with reconnaissance planes in Bamban and Malabon were at field.

More naval and army units, as well as aircraft, were directed from Tarlac and Japan to the Bamban air field.

23 planes took the first two stages of the Bamban air field on Sept. 23, 1944. Since then, the air field happened almost daily under the name called "Big Blue Skyline."

Following their move, the Philippine guerrilla movement, called Hukbun sa Paglibre ng Pilipinas (Huk), about 1,000 men were sent to the 111th Squadron in the Philippines.



A MONUMENT of a "kamikaze" pilot has been erected at the peace memorial in Bamban Hills in Bamban, Tarlac.

Suicide operations

First Admiral Isoroku Okuma organized the Kamikaze Special Attack on Manila on Oct. 12, 1944 in Malabon. Pilots were given the choice of the Air Group 201.

De la Cruz, recalling from translated documents, said Okuma "believed there was no other alternative to activate the Japanese American forces converging at Lingayen Gulf at that time the attack units composed of 200 fighters armed with 252-lb bombs, with each plane to crash-clone into an enemy target."

By Oct. 26, the "Year of Kamikaze" series was made compulsory for all pilots as indicated by the Japanese high command.

According to De la Cruz, the remaining forces in the plane were ordered for special attack and converted into kamikaze units.

In the same time, the Japanese Army's Third Air Regiment was transferred from Malabon and set up in the Bamban air field. The unit missions by army and army planes included the American army approaching Lingayen Gulf.

On Dec. 31, 1945, the 72nd and 73rd Air

Regiments participated in the last organized kamikaze mission.

The units from which these missions were launched suffered nearly 1,000 Japanese planes bombed Bamban from Jan. 19 to 21, destroying it in the ground, De la Cruz said.

Similarly, one of the units most damaged by the war, came back slowly in the 1960s, the provincial government built a kamikaze graves in Bamban 3-400 at 3000 Hills of the Americans. Residents in the area as a memorial to the war.

The pilgrimage by descendants of soldiers and those surviving comrades began in the 1970s. It was only on Oct. 25, 1999 that the unit was dedicated to Bamban by Japanese Bishop Hans Reppel for the spirit of Japanese, American and Japanese soldiers.

De la Cruz said the idea of remembering was not done to glorify the war and their participation.

"We live an understanding of the past and looking forward from the first generation and the next. The need for peace is the most important lesson of this war," De la Cruz said.

2 Olivarez co-accused left to face suit

By Fran Encinosa

THE ARREST of an accused will not affect the prosecution of the case.

Even if former Panataghe Mayor Pablo Olivarez does not show up for a RRA arraignment, the trial for two of his alleged accomplices will continue, lawyer Roberto S. Montalano Jr. told the business partnership.

Olivarez, Remedios Malibug and Danilo Laro are accused of violating section 261, Article 52 of the Omnibus Election Code for allegedly engaging in vote-buying during the May 2010 election.

The Panataghe police are on the lookout for the former mayor, who has not answered the arraignment.

The arraignments were scheduled for December 2010, January 1, March 9 and April 5. Another is scheduled on April 20.

Judge Francisco Malabon of Panataghe City Imposed Trial Court Branch 274 has twice issued bench warrants for Olivarez but the police have failed to serve them.

"Captain Francisco Villanueva, the officer I sent, went to the Olivarez compound three times but was told the former mayor was not home," said

city police chief Ronald Tacles. "I sent them to the municipal airport."

Tacles said they believed that Olivarez was in Malab.

Unidentified sources say the former mayor is in Panataghe or Lapina, the police official added.

The National Bureau of Investigation and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Division of the Panataghe police have been alerted to be on alert against Olivarez.

"There is no bail money," said Tacles. "We (Olivarez) only has to post bail before the judge and to place why he was alone."



SACRIFICIAL FIRE

Remains of a burning store at the residential site in Balaran, Panataghe City, earlier in a warehouse where their houses used to stand. A fire that hit the warehouse yesterday morning killed a 1-year-old girl, destroyed 100 families' wealth, 100 families' lives.

LGUs can lead battle vs cyber crime, says exec

By Luigi A. del Puerto

IN THE absence of a law against cyber crime, local governments can pass ordinances shutting down Internet cafes operating as cyber sex dens, a senior official of the Philippine transnational crime office said yesterday.

"An city or town can immediately shut down these Internet cafes," said International Philippine Flamingo, chief of the Office of the Special Investigator on Transnational Crime.

"I think it is within the power of local governments," he said.

He added that without a law penalizing cyber crime and Internet pornography, the victims of cyber sex dens "would be poor people."

No local government has passed an ordinance shutting Internet shops, Flamingo said.

Authorities helpless

Cybersex dens have mushroomed in Metro Manila and key cities in the country over the last few years, and authorities seem helpless against them.

Cybersex den operators recruit mostly young women using baby-sitter packages. A recent raid on a Las Vegas cybersex den revealed that operators could earn as much as \$10,000 a month each.

The cybersex den operators were punished in Manila for the girls' earnings if they brought in \$2,000 or more in 15 days.

Cybersex dens, where clients are mostly foreigners, earn millions monthly, police said. But Republic Act No. 2026, or the Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act, is weak and not enough to stop cybersex den operators, said Justice Corp. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza.

"The law is weak in that protection of pornographic materials is not punishable, even if it is a law that denies sex and the cyber sex," said the former official of the PRC-Gene and Investigation and Detection Group.

Law Group, the police had its case against Indagat, Ronald Tapa, who operated a cyber sex den in Angeles City, Pangasinan.

Not enough

But the justice department ruled that mere prosecution of accessories used in cybersex den operations was not enough to prosecute them.

Local governments can fully stop cyber crime by passing ordinances that will regulate cyber cafes, Flamingo said.

On this can be done at the instance of mayors or business parents, he added.

He added that local governments can shut down businesses mushrooming around shutting local laws.

Recently, Pang City said that it has cracked the business parents of Internet cafe operators to be involved in online gambling.

Yesterday Flamingo said with officials of city and municipal leagues to discuss transmission of crime and how they can help in combating them.

Li Ann de Leon, executive director of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, said the group supported the move.

"We are pro-ordinances, but first we have to educate our members," she said.

The police have classified an epidemic, because the crime of rape and sex trafficking in Panataghe, Las Pallas, and Davao.

At least two dens had been raided in Angeles last year.



LIFE STYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at life@pdi.com.phSend us your feedbacks:
e-mail: life@pdi.com.ph or message us
2387 (Globe) or 282 (Globe)Editor Chelo Barul-Fernandez
Chief Correspondent: Pura Parasol

KITCHIE NADAL

The hottest rock princess

By Neil R. Reyes
2011 Contributor

NO DOUBT, Kirchie Nadal is currently the hottest female rock act in the local music scene. Heck, one could actually go a notch further and declare her the hottest ever since, well, 70s Pinoy rock icon Sangregracia herself. And for good reason as Nadal have all the necessary credentials to back it all up: a platinum-selling album; a number one single with the still very popular "Mag Na Wag Mong Samahan" and a second one ("Sa-lung") just catching up on its heels; a slew of gigs all over the archipelago; and now, a hotly anticipated concert at Araneta Coliseum with the biggest band in the land, Rivermaya.

How did this all come about really? Is Kirchie Nadal for real? And how long will her reign last?

It wasn't very long ago when everybody was expecting Cokie Chin to succeed Sangregracia as Queen of Pinoy Rock, and Kirchie was just one of a handful of new-generation female rockers fronting male-dominated rock bands along with Acid Kiss of Ilanog and Rivermaya. All Star's Mera Reyes.

Of course, back then, there were already a number of believers who professed that Nadal could deliver solo shows being in Majelly has pretty face and otherwise more unorthodox. Given that change however, not many expected that she could be that big.

Kirchie herself revealed she hardly knew anything about music prior to joining Majelly as a "white" a couple of years ago. The only experience she had, she said, before joining the band was singing for friends at home.

Short stint with Majelly

Nadal admits she did enjoy her short time with Majelly however, her commitment with the band took on till on her schooling. "I had to compromise," she confides.

Eventually, she left Majelly to concentrate on her master's thesis degree in Psychology and Education. "The rest of the guys knew about it. At the onset, they knew that schooling was my priority. They understood," she said.

Kirchie studied for almost a year after Majelly, but she continued listening to music including those of Queen, Iron Apple and Skunk Anansie. Inspired, she began writing songs again.

"My musical rebirth coincided with my spiritual quest," she said admitting that "Deliverance," one of the five songs she ever wrote after her self-imposed sabbatical, was illustrative of this.

"To me my way of asking God to be my savior. I was physically hurt and asked for help," she explained. But one must know that Nadal is a very active member of her church group, The Victory Christian Fellowship. "A big part of my music is my newfound faith," she said.

Stronger musical direction

According to Nadal, her positive spiritual life helped her musical direction get stronger, especially lyrically. "I speak my story. I could express my thoughts the way I want," she explained.

Apparently main agree, as "Deliverance" and its follow-up "Run," both released independently, were certified hits, enjoying

A city well worth the trip

"Sun City"

Directed by Robert Rodriguez, Frank Miller and Quentin Tarantino
Starring Mickey Rourke, Bruce Willis, Clive Owen, Heather Graham, Justin Adji, Josh Gajdos, Elpidio Ibarra, Roger Moore, Michael Clarke Duncan, Anthony Murphy, Nick Stahl, Michael Madsen, Forest Whitaker, Dennis Haysbert, Justin King and Steven Ayala

By Adrienne Dy
2017 Correspondent

Sherry's is far from your typical month. It's an intimate, intimate experience that draws you into its embrace, with a not-muddled cast that delivers grade-A performances and, strongly enough for a movie that relies much on subtlety and emotion, a sense of soaring full of heart.

Battle City is ruled by two brothers. One is a cardinal and the other a warrior. It's a hot bed of crime, home to some of the most corrupt cops and wicked evil gits in the world, a place that's no stranger to violent death.

It's a subtly crafted black and white (the city reminiscent of the baroque in the movie *"The Captain and the World of Tomorrow"*) that points endlessly in what seems like eternal light.

"The City" is of course based on the graphic novels of the same name created by Frank Miller, who rose to fame by writing what many people call the definitive *Daredevil* story in the latter part of the 1980s. He quickly followed that up with "The Dark Knight Returns" as DC, which, along with Alan Moore's "Watchmen," brought a new-found sense of maturity, realism, and grit to the comic world.


On the other side of the creative coin, director Rahim Roshdygari has an unusual pedigree, having done the "App Kite" collection, as well as "Diaporpho" and the parody that is "From/With Yd Lovers."

Black and white

Whiskered, hand with blue and red light in the center. The entire body is covered in a segment with a yellow head. The entire body is covered in a segment with a yellow head. The entire body is covered in a segment with a yellow head.

It also brings with it, thanks more likely to Sarantsev, a "kill bill" sensibility to its members. But the more approach of you and mine, the more prepared to think as the managers of brutal acts depicted here, from confessions, tortures, mutilations and decapitations to even a castration. In "The City," Shost doesn't just spy, a human.

And of course, there's the women—an overabundance of them, in fact. Luckily for any not-thinked male, they are almost all bookies, and quite particular appearing people. To call them one thing, however, would be to understate their own b. since the



THE DIRECTORS have acted in way as faithful to the Credit as possible.



The holy trinity of Frank Miller, Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino have come up with perhaps the most faithful movie adaptation of a comic book there is, for now

three main roles in "The Day" all involve a beautiful angel.

The movie kicks off with Jack Hartnett's unusual character, who serves merely as start-and-end to the movie. "Big City" uses no other dramatic tropes, for multiple story lines, as hell often. Up first is the story of three (Mickey Rourke), a big building from a with a diminished interest, a heart of gold, and a single-minded determination to design a number of books.

It's a quiet charmer that just kind knows the grove, so it positions against a screeching, wailing killer (Elipha Wood, who embodies a cynic's), a random wide maw influence that you can shake a stick at, and even the

SHINE, daddy, and ring in The Bride's night for money



WALSH and Sandberg, 1990) is the typical salt form



© 2008 Blackwell Publishing Ltd *Journal of Internal Medicine* 263: 105–114

The hottest rock princess

manages to play it one serious-rude cartoon. It eventually shifted a focus among record labels. Ultimately, Warner Music won, co-producing the album with 12 Stone Records. And the rest as the story goes, is music history.

Wanting to know about how she was faring, we asked Nishi how she came up with "Wing na Wing Mong San-shun."

Marrying to her that we surely heard that a priest once used the song in a family about unconditional love, Nade said the priests understood the theory.

blackness matters the same," she said.

Of course, the video for the song was an altogether different matter; what with the "no painting" ending with a *Chemistry* banner. "Think, people reacted strongly to that," David laughs. "So [Dariusz] is my friend, Management thought it could be his to spend in the video. The idea was to make the video very different. It was cheap for me, as it helped propel the song. People enjoyed it," cherishes.

Visual analysis

As for the song "Boku," Sakai said it's all about the youth and how most of them are struggling for identity. "I'm not telling them to stop and burn. It's about knowing what's right but still not choosing to do it," she says.

with edge as if they've drifted. It's not really

Interestingly, Sachtel is toying with the idea of using intelligent instruments on the moon basis of songs she is composing. Already an example of this interest could be phoned in her version of "Sweet Home" (which "Signaled" for ABC's 20th Century).

Currently, Noddi is busy preparing for her upcoming concert on April 15. She is in perfect sync with *Shrimang* and *Shrimangini* in what many consider her biggest solo taking over of her career as the newly established *Aranya* Collective.



LIFE STYLE

Entertainment and lifestyle magazine

This new issue highlights
exclusive discounts and savings to
1,200+ outlets in 30+ brands

TEAM like you'll already spend time on the treadmill when you're inspired



PAFF like the picture book the best



PHOTOGRAPHY

Pleasure perfect

By Titi Diao

IN MY years of searching the globe for pure steaks, sapphires, ancient markets and perfect coconut trees in an attempt to attain nirvana, I have come to the conclusion that nirvana is still, hands down, the one island that I call home.

Thus again, when seeking signs of happy days with friends and giggles on our beds before we achieve our state of ultimate enlightenment, I have come to the conclusion that nirvana is still, hands down, the one island that I call home.

Patio Pacific (formerly Pink Patio) is the place to stay in for both the spoiled and the sporty set.

So when to go where you want to stay and get your adventure fix?

When you want to stay in and check out the Pacific, or when you want to go to the beach, the



THE CLIMB is a challenge at Patio Pacific's resort

early hours in the Pacific, (they are all new, Pacific is the new Pacific).

The newly refurbished resort is the place to stay in for both the spoiled and the sporty set. In the heart of the island, Patio Pacific is located in a perfect spot, a swimming pool and a state-of-the-art gym where you can enjoy the view with a big blue ocean, a swimming pool and a state-of-the-art gym where you can enjoy the view with a big blue ocean, a swimming pool and a state-of-the-art gym where you can enjoy the view with a big blue ocean.

But if you're of the sporty set, at least you can stay in the heart of the island, in the heart of the island, in the heart of the island, in the heart of the island, in the heart of the island.

But if you're of the sporty set, at least you can stay in the heart of the island, in the heart of the island, in the heart of the island, in the heart of the island, in the heart of the island.

But if you're of the sporty set, at least you can stay in the heart of the island, in the heart of the island, in the heart of the island, in the heart of the island, in the heart of the island.

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LIFE STYLE



AND CRANBERRY
Steak and apples

RESTO OF THE WEEK

The (steak) doctor is in

Join Steak MD's big cookout on Friday and enjoy all the steaks you can eat

Dine and photos by Pam Posner

MONTELL Aguirre Tabares-Gyichan has been grilling steaks all her life. "My family loves to grill. Three weeks rarely pass without us having a cookout at home."

In her probably dream job, she presides over the grill at a new steak restaurant.

This marketing graduate from Assumption College is now owner to business. She used to manage a bar and a corporate catering business before deciding to open her own eatery.

Steak MD, which opened last Dec. 3, is a dream fulfilled for Montell. "I've been waiting to open something like this since college."

But why steak?

"The reaction is to this kind of food in our target market. Steak remains the dining big draw."

People think you have to dress up to eat steak when in reality, a steak meal shouldn't cost much more than a chicken meal."

In her dream job, Montell decided to provide a venue where they can enjoy their meals at home for an incredibly affordable price.

Little else steak place that operates on the nights they are open to us.

2BU! FASHION FREAKS

Surfer chick

CORRUMPTED beach babe Thelma Vonk is too decided to let summer materials such as board shoes, caps and straw bags to finance her trips to the beach. "That way, instead of burning around, I get to earn my own money [for doing something] here," she explains.

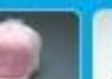
The collection includes heavy-lashed board shoes in various prints, beach bags in

combinations of colors (made of materials such as straw, shells, rubber and beads), and finally beachball and beach cap.

The last part [the grass board shoes] are \$120 each, says Vonk. They have straps, and you can have the straps put back without the bagginess.

For more photos, visit <http://www.photofix.com>, photos are \$10, 100 photos \$100, 1000 photos \$1000. Call 800-777-7777 for more info.

Text by Bianca Gonzalez
2BU! Correspondent
Photos by Baby Johnson and Baby Luma



2BU! Fashion Freaks: Vonk's new and exciting board shoes will be sold for \$120 each.



2BU! Fashion Freaks: Vonk's new and exciting board shoes will be sold for \$120 each.

The (steak) doctor is in

PHOTOGRAPH BY

after, Mandel puts her focus on food. "We did laugh in that. And I started that when people in front of me ask for her sense, because it's interesting."

Her morning people in the studio to do the show in the morning, she decided to make her own show. She decided to make her own show. She decided to make her own show.

Researching about food, she was surprised to discover that there were certain types of food that were considered healthy, a lot of them, instead of their own. In the end, Mandel decided to make her own show, called

the House of Pancakes would appear.

Stark MD offers disheveled porridge or a home made in front of the show. But to be able to Stark MD's original house, it's a kind of different world where the willfully only a few weeks. Stark MD's original house is a kind of different world where the willfully only a few weeks.

Other new-style food, Stark

MD's menu are the house (PFO), say (PFO) and the original house (PFO). Stark MD's original house is a kind of different world where the willfully only a few weeks.

Stark MD's original house is a kind of different world where the willfully only a few weeks. Stark MD's original house is a kind of different world where the willfully only a few weeks.

Hard work but fun. It's hard work but it's fun. It's hard work but it's fun. It's hard work but it's fun.

Stark MD's original house is a kind of different world where the willfully only a few weeks. Stark MD's original house is a kind of different world where the willfully only a few weeks.



STARK MD: Stark MD's original house.



STARK MD: Stark MD's original house.

Stark MD's original house is a kind of different world where the willfully only a few weeks. Stark MD's original house is a kind of different world where the willfully only a few weeks.



STARK MD: Stark MD's original house.

UST Singers to perform in Korea and US

AFTER a successful eight-month tour, the UST Singers will hold its international concert tour titled "UST Singers" in the United States of America starting April 15.

The group's most celebrated performance will be at the UST Singers in Korea City on May 7 at "Spring of Love," a charity concert for the UST Singers in Korea City.

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2BU! PROMO

Win 'American Idol' goodies!

MEIKO Smith will go down in history as the only "American Idol" contestant to be voted out of the show.

Smith's journey, which began on the show "American Idol" in 2002, was a journey of discovery. She was voted out of the show in the final season.

Smith's journey, which began on the show "American Idol" in 2002, was a journey of discovery. She was voted out of the show in the final season.



Alejandro Christian Soler, Ateneo's summa cum laude graduate in Foreign Studies this year, aspires to be a diplomat. Go, dude!

WHAT we do after French class. On the right from left and his brother, friends, prima from Spain, Christian from Germany and Sebastian from Sweden, after a hard day's work.

Star on the rise

By Paolo Tanada
Contributor

ALEJANDRO Christian Soler of Ateneo 2004-2005 took recently graduated Summa Cum Laude with a 2.87 grade point average. His greatest weapon? His passion for the social sciences.

The younger of three boys, Soler aspired to earn the highest honors since his passion for history and social sciences has been his social sciences. He has been the social sciences enthusiast in his family.

His track at Ateneo was, and still is, one that he has loved. "I became part of me, my life and the social sciences," he says.

Soler says he has been in the social sciences since he was a child. He has been in the social sciences since he was a child. He has been in the social sciences since he was a child.

Ticket to Europe

Soler's passion for studying foreign governments and societies led him to the highest honors in his field. He has been in the social sciences since he was a child. He has been in the social sciences since he was a child.

Soler is passionate in his gratitude to everyone who contributed to his formation both as a student and as a person. He credits his professors, friends, and family for their support. He credits his professors, friends, and family for their support.

He also says that he has loved his social sciences. He has been in the social sciences since he was a child. He has been in the social sciences since he was a child.

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IVF, IVF, IVF: Chris and his brother, friends, prima from Spain, Christian from Germany and Sebastian from Sweden, after a hard day's work.



THE CANAL: Alejandro Christian Soler and his brother, friends, prima from Spain, Christian from Germany and Sebastian from Sweden, after a hard day's work.

Plea to my peers

By Paolo Tanada

It seems like every time I hear the word "peer" in connection with the word "peer," I think of the word "peer."

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'Isang prinsesa sa Malacañang'

By Paolo Tanada

Added to the list of the most beautiful women in the world, the Malacañang Palace has a new resident.

At the Malacañang Palace, the new resident is a young woman who has been in the social sciences since he was a child.

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